

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of April 29, 2003, pages 1 and 6 of the specification have been amended as required by the Examiner.

The objections to claims 1-21 have also been addressed. Claim 1 has also been amended to positively recite the method steps. Number designations commonly used in European practice have been eliminated from the claims of the US case. Punctuation has also been corrected as highlighted by the Official Action.

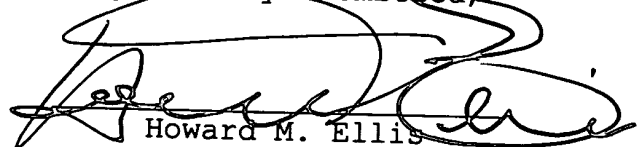
In response to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the recitation of "filter" in claim 1 has been corrected.

This one ground of rejection should now be obviated.

Paragraph 9 of the Official Action indicates that correction of the foregoing formalities would place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, in view of the amendment to the specification and claims, Applicant believes this application is now in condition for allowance, and notification of the same is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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